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Letter dated 16 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the Malaga Youth Declaration (see annex), adopted at the 2017 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Youth Conference, held on 25 and 26 May 2017 in Malaga, Spain, in the context of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**

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Annex to the letter dated 16 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Malaga Youth Declaration

We, young people from the participating States and partners for cooperation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), gathered in Mollina, Malaga, on the occasion of the 2017 OSCE Youth Conference, are convinced that youth mainstreaming brings added value to OSCE in achieving the goals and the purpose of the Organization and that young people can support participating States in implementing OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of OSCE, as recognized by the Ministerial Council of OSCE in its Declaration on Youth, adopted in Basel, and its Declaration on Youth and Security, adopted in Belgrade.

As a result of our discussions, we have made recommendations in the following areas:

(a) Youth, peace and security;

(b) Youth and social media: countering radicalization and extremism;

(c) Cybersecurity and the economic impact of malware;

(d) Youth environmental platforms: creating a sustainable world;

(e) Promoting tolerance and countering disinformation online;

(f) Youth political participation.

Recommendations

1. OSCE should develop a cross-cutting OSCE youth policy and establish an inclusive and representative OSCE youth consultative body with the authority to select an OSCE special representative for youth and security, supported by the secretariat and funded through the unified budget.

2. Engage a broad alliance of stakeholders, including formal and non-formal education providers, families, communities and at-risk youths, in preventing and countering violent extremism leading to radicalization and terrorism, through joint online efforts, such as information-sharing platforms, social media campaigns and educational workshops in local high schools, featuring emotionally engaging positive counter-narratives.

3. In order to address the lack of knowledge across society of cybersecurity issues, such as networks, personal data protection and evolving norms, States should support programming and other educational mechanisms to promote computer literacy and online security awareness, starting in primary school, with a special focus on young girls and women.

4. Identify the reasons for cyberthreats, promote social inclusion and integrity and reach out to vulnerable youth groups, creating opportunities and increasing motivation among young people to use their potential in a constructive manner. State and private entities should organize "hackathons" and international events with young professionals.

5. We, as young people, need tools to raise awareness among young people of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. We call upon the participating States to support youth initiatives that demonstrate a real impact on the environment

and contribute to strengthening security. In addition, we encourage the creation of platforms and networks to share knowledge, build capacities and exchange experience and new ideas among youth organizations and other stakeholders, by establishing clear mechanisms for youth engagement in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels.

6. In order to enable young people to contribute to the transition to the green economy, we call upon the participating States, partners for cooperation and executive structures of OSCE to support youth campaigns on the benefits of the green economy and sustainable, innovative and greener initiatives. We believe that keeping young people active in research and development will provide a platform for quality dialogue and lead to more opportunities for sustainable employment through the creation of green jobs.

7. We encourage participating States and their formal and non-formal education systems to promote civic education and democratic values in order to strengthen the capacity of young people to critically engage with media and the digital world.

8. We call upon all media and digital actors to acknowledge their social responsibility and influence and their resulting accountability, by increasing the visibility of stories about young people and their opinions and views, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

9. Support OSCE participating States in promoting youth impact assessment mechanisms in national legislation.

10. Establish structural mechanisms for the meaningful and inclusive participation of young women and men from participating States and partners for cooperation, such as an annual OSCE youth forum and regional youth platforms to build capacity and foster mutual understanding through dialogue.

Follow-up

We, the participants in the Youth Forum, call upon OSCE to consider the recommendations above containing the perspectives of our generation and to ensure follow-up on their inclusion and implementation in the work of the Organization.

We ask the Spanish Chair of the Group of Friends of Youth and Security to bring these recommendations to the attention of the executive structures, participating States and partners for cooperation of OSCE.